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GENERAL ITEMS.

INSTRUCTIVE COMPARISONS. — It is said the clergy costs the United States \$12,000,000 annually; the criminals, \$40,000,000; the lawyers, \$70,000,000; rum, \$200,000,000.

GOVERNMENTAL SINECURES. — Every government is full of these. During and since our rebellion we have had an accumulation of such vampires. The English service, civil as well as military, has always been crowded with such official drones. It has lately been asserted on good authority, that "not one clerk in *twelve* does a day's work in a *week*, since gentlemen by birth and education do not take kindly to drudgery, and cannot be expected to work at it with a will." They are now trying to stop such leakages in the expenses of government; but it will, we fear, be found impracticable, or of little avail, until the mass of the people shall look thoroughly into the matter, and shall have full power to control it.

FATE OF THE BOURBONS. — There is no Bourbon left on any throne. The Count of Chambord is an exile in Austria; the Duke of Orleans, ditto in London; Queen Isabella, ditto in France; the claimant to the Spanish succession and the title of Charles Sixth, ditto in Austria; Francis II., late King of Naples, ditto in Rome.

SAFEGUARD AGAINST REVOLUTION. — The *Independence Belge* of Brussels says that the protocol adopted by the Paris Conference declares, that to encourage insurrections within, or privateering and military expeditions against, the territories of a friendly Power, is a violation of international law. A just principle; but the only way to insure its adoption by the people is for governments to act honestly in their interest, and thus anticipate and supersede the usual motives for revolution.

EUROPEAN ARMIES. — France, 1,350,000; North Germany, 1,028,946; South Germany, 200,171; Austria and Hungary, 1,053,000; Russia, 1,467,000; Italy, 480,461. These figures embrace both the standing armies and the reserve or militia force.

ENGLISH RAILWAY SYSTEM. — Some of its statistics are truly astonishing. At the present time, 3600 trains run in and out of London daily, carrying on an average 300,000 passengers. There are at present 13,854 miles of railroads open for traffic in Great Britain. They employ 177,000 men, of whom 40,000 are artificers, 26,000 porters and signalmen, 6000 guards and brakemen, and 11,000 engine drivers and firemen. The annual loss of iron by wear and tear on these 13,000 miles of track amounts to about 20,000 tons, while about 250,000 have to be taken up, re-rolled and relaid.

PEACE VIEWS IN MADAGASCAR. — At the coronation of the Queen of Madagascar, 3d September, a small table was placed by Her Majesty's side, upon which was placed a very handsomely-bound Malagasy Bible and a copy of the laws of Madagascar. The roof of the canopy under which the coronation took place had inscribed on the four different sides the following words: "Glory to God: Peace on earth; Good will to men; May God be with us."

TERTULIAN, A. D. 197. — Can one who professes the peaceable doctrine of the gospel, be a soldier? Jesus Christ, by disarming Peter, disarmed every soldier afterwards; for custom can never sanction a wrong act.

SPARE THE BIRDS!

BY CLARA F. BERRY.

Don't kill the little birds!
Who sing on bush and tree,
All through the summer days,
Their sweetest melody.

Don't shoot the little birds!
The earth is God's estate;
And he provideth food
For small, as well as great.

Don't kill the little birds!
Whose plumage wings the air;
Whose trill at early morn,
Makes music everywhere.

What though the cherries fall,
Half eaten from the stem?
And strawberries disappear,
In garden, field and glen?

Still, like the widow's cruse,
There's always plenty left;
How sad a world were this
Of little birds bereft.

In this great world of ours,
If we can trust His word,
There's food enough for all —
Don't kill a single bird!

LITTLE BY LITTLE.

One step and then another,
And the longest walk is ended;
One stitch and then another,
And the largest rent is mended:
One brick upon another,
And the highest wall is made;
One flake upon another,
And the deepest snow is laid.

So the little coral-workers,
By their slow and constant motion,
Have built those pretty islands
In the distant dark-blue ocean;
And the noblest undertakings
Man's wisdom hath conceived,
By oft-repeated efforts
Have been patiently achieved.

Then do not look disheartened
O'er the work you have to do,
And say such a mighty task
You never can get through;
But just endeavor day by day
Another point to gain,
And soon the mountain that you feared
Will prove to be a plain.

LORD BROUGHAM — I abominate war as unchristian. I hold it to be the greatest of human crimes. I deem it to include all others — violence, blood, rapine, fraud, everything which can deform the character, and debase the name of man.